

**29303 NE 11th Street  
Carnation, WA 98014**

January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am very much in favor of the Microsoft antitrust case settlement agreement. The remedies provided in it are good for everyone involved, and I would not like to see the case dragged on through the courts any further.

The terms of the settlement agreement are quite reasonable by any standards. Once the agreement is approved, Microsoft will be helping the competition by leveling the playing field in the high-tech industry. For example, Microsoft has agreed to make it easier for consumers to run other software programs simultaneously with the Windows operating system. They also agreed not to retaliate against retailers that promote software that competes with Windows. Additionally, Microsoft has agreed to implement a uniform price list for the top 20 largest computer manufacturers. Microsoft's competitors should be satisfied with these types of concessions.

I appreciate your efforts toward settling this case. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Beman", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Beman